

National Institutes of Health – Joint Letter Request (32,439,216,000). I would ban earmarks as we know them, but as long as these earmarks are available, I'm going to apply for them in an effort to pursue federal funding opportunities for my district. For non-defense projects in the current earmarking system, I work closely with local governments, civic organizations, non-profits and business development authorities to identify and prioritize projects important to local communities in Georgia's Eighth Congressional District (and sometimes elsewhere). I only request funds for projects authorized by law for federal funding and do not do so for private parties or entities. This National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding request will help support our nation's preeminent medical research institution and represents our best hope for finding cures and treatments for the devastating diseases and conditions that affect millions of Americans. It is a valuable use of taxpayer funds because it will help contain soaring medical costs, strengthen our economy, inspire the next generation of scientists and researchers, and maintain our nation's leadership in innovation.